

## Board of Veterans' Affairs-- 2-15-1205, Montana Code Annotated No. \_\_\_\_\_

The board consists of 20 members who are Montana residents for staggered, 4-year terms (maximum of 2 terms for voting members). 19 are appointed by the governor and 1 is appointed by tribal leaders. 11 are voting members, and 9 are nonvoting members. Voting members include veterans who have been honorably discharged representing 5 regions in the state set by the Board; 1 veteran at-large; 1 tribal member and 1 representative appointed by tribal leaders. 3 additional voting members must have training, education, or experience related to veterans' issues. The 9 non-voting members (who do not need Senate confirmation) are: the director of the Department of Military Affairs; the Office of State Coordinator of Indian Affairs; and representatives from the Department of Public Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Veterans' Employment and Training Service Office; the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee; and representatives of the state's Congressional delegation.

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### Joseph Tropila, 209 2nd St NW, Great Falls MT 59404 (Member)

Contact Phone(s): (406) 453-1121

Appointment date: 10/24/2011; Term ends: August 1, 2015

Qualification: veteran-at-large

Tropila served in the U.S. Air Force in Korea. He was elected to both the Montana House of Representatives and Montana State Senate, and also served as the elected Cascade County Clerk and Recorder.

### David E. Boyd, PO Box 1239, Poplar MT 59255 (Member)

Contact Phone(s): (406) 768-5243

Appointment date: 10/24/2011; Term ends: August 1, 2015

Qualification: veteran, tribal member

Boyd served in South Korea, Okinawa, Japan and bases throughout the United States in the U.S. Army, Montana Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. He retired from the military with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

### Gary Sorensen, 3023 Martinwood Rd, Missoula MT 59802 (Member)

Contact Phone(s): (406) 725-3277

Appointment date: 10/24/2011; Term ends: August 1, 2015

Qualification: individual with experience with veterans' issues

Sorensen is a retired U.S. Army officer and served over 30 years in the military. He received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Montana and a master's degree in public relations from American University.

### William Willing, 300 Hemlock St, Anaconda MT 59711 (Member)

Contact Phone(s): (406) 535-0040

Appointment date: 10/24/2011; Term ends: August 1, 2015

Qualification: individual with experience with veterans' issues

Willing served nearly 39 years in the military, retiring in 2005 with the rank of Colonel. He flew 512 combat missions in Viet Nam, was reassigned to the Army Reserve and then joined the Montana Army National Guard, where he was the administrator of the aviation unit in Deer Lodge.

### Sarah Price, 374 Woodson Rd, Helena MT 59602 (Member)

Contact Phone(s): (406) 202-1270

Appointment date: 10/24/2011; Term ends: August 1, 2014

Qualification: individual with experience with veterans' issues

Price served in the U.S. Air Force for seven years, including deployment in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. She has an associate degree from the Community College of the Air Force in communications applications and currently works for the Montana Board of Crime Control.

### Anita Oldbull Big Man, 3011 Boulder Ave #15, Billings MT 59102 (Member)

Contact Phone(s): (406) 638-3907

Appointment date: 10/24/2011; Term ends: August 1, 2015

Qualification: representative of Tribal governments

Oldbull Big Man was the chief executive officer for the Crow Tribe and has a bachelor's degree from Montana State University-Billings. Her military service was from 2000-2003 with the Air Defense Artillery Unit of the U.S. Army.

### Peter Olson, PO Box 729, Culbertson MT 59218 (Member)

Contact Phone(s): (406) 767-5215

Appointment date: 8/3/2012; Term ends: August 1, 2016

Qualification: Veteran, Region 5

Olson is a self-employed professional land surveyor. He studied engineering at North Idaho College and serves as a member of the Culbertson school board.

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